

April 22, 2009

The Stonington Board of Selectmen held a regular meeting on this date at the Stonington Police Station at 7:00 p.m. Present were First Selectman Edward Haberek, Selectman William Brown and Selectman Peter Balestracci. Also present were members of the public and press.

(1) Call to Order

Mr. Haberek called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

(2) Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Balestracci, seconded by Mr. Brown and voted unanimously to approve the April 8, 2009 and April 9, 2009 minutes as distributed.

(3) Comments from the Public

a. Mr. Vincent Faulise spoke about a letter he received from the Westerly Ambulance Corps. regarding membership.

b. Mr. Don Sadowsky spoke with regard to the status of the Ethics Commission and procedure for filing a complaint.

(4) Correspondence

None

(5) Appointments/Reappointments

Inland Wetlands and Water Courses Commission

A motion was made by Mr. Balestracci, seconded by Mr. Brown and voted unanimously to appoint Howard L. Reichart to the Inland Wetlands and Water Courses Commission, as requested in his Application to the BOS.

Planning and Zoning Commission

A motion was made by Mr. Balestracci, seconded by Mr. Brown and voted unanimously to appoint Bob Mercer to the Planning and Zoning Commission as an alternate, as requested in his e-mail correspondence to the BOS.

Stonington Harbor Management Commission

A motion was made by Mr. Balestracci, seconded by Mr. Brown and voted unanimously to reappoint Alan Banister to the Stonington Harbor Management Commission, as requested in his e-mail correspondence to the BOS.

(6) Old Business

ICLEI Application and Resolution

Mr. Haberek spoke with regard to the benefits of the being a member of ICLEI. ICLEI will provide data on opportunities for clean energy and will assist the Town of Stonington in investigating options for meeting our goal of purchasing 20% of energy needs from clean energy sources by 2010. Mr. Brown asked if this would be a yearly fee. Mr. Haberek stated that it would be a one-time charge and that all of the information obtained with the membership should be all that is needed. Mr. Balestracci agreed that signing up for a one-year membership would be a good decision. A motion was made by Mr. Balestracci, seconded by Mr. Brown and voted unanimously to purchase a membership.

Mistuxet Avenue Properties

Mr. Haberek spoke with regard to the land swap between Joseph and Mary Putnam and the Town of Stonington. There was some discussion between Attorney Nick Kepple and Mr. Balestracci as to who would be responsible for the costs for an 8-24 review. Mr. Bill Haase, Director of Planning stated that there is no fee for an 8-24 review. There was further discussion between Attorney Kepple, Mr. Balestracci and Mr. Brown with regard to the location of the property and the easement already in place. A motion was made by Mr. Balestracci, seconded by Mr. Brown and voted unanimously to send this matter to Planning & Zoning in accordance with C.G.S. 8-24.

Aquarion Water Company Easement to Connect to Sanitary Sewer

Mr. Haberek spoke with regard to the Aquarion Water Company's request that the Town grant a Sewer Easement to Aquarion for property in and over portions of the public rights-of-way of Jerry Browne Road and Mistuxet Avenue for Aquarion to install a sewer line for a sanitary septic system to serve the Dean's Mill Water Treatment Plant. A motion was made by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Balestracci and voted unanimously for the granting of the Sewer Easement Agreement.

Clean Water Fund – Grant Agreement

A motion was made by Mr. Balestracci, seconded by Mr. Brown and voted unanimously to approve the Grant Agreement.

(7) New Business

Bid Award: 2009 Ford Fusion SE Unmarked Police Car

A motion was made by Mr. Balestracci, seconded by Mr. Brown and voted unanimously to award the bid to the lowest bidder, Bob Valenti Ford.

Ordinance to Establish a Permanent Architectural Design Review Board

Mr. Haase, Director of Planning spoke with regard to the need to appointing a permanent Architectural Review Board for the Town of Stonington for the purpose of providing guidance with regard to the design of buildings, structures, landscaping and site layout, with the objective of promoting development projects that are in harmony with Stonington's Architectural heritage. A motion was made by Mr. Balestracci, seconded by Mr. Brown and voted unanimously to move the ordinance to a special meeting for endorsement.

Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity

Mr. Haberek presented the Fair Housing Policy Statement, Fair Housing Resolution and Compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. A motion was made by Mr. Balestracci, seconded by Mr. Brown and voted unanimously to reaffirm said documents.

Policy for the Use of Town Property Including Streets for Non-Town Sponsored Events

Mr. Haberek presented the Special Events Policy and stated that the Application for Use of Town Property of the Town of Stonington is already in place and working well. A motion was made by Mr. Balestracci, seconded by Mr. Brown and voted unanimously by Mr. Haberek to adopt the Special Events Policy.

Stonington Housing Affordability Report

Mr. Jim Kelly and Mr. Tom Hyland presented the Stonington Housing Authority Affordability Report. A motion was made by Mr. Balestracci, seconded by Mr. Brown and voted unanimously to accept the report.

Stonington Village Improvement Association (SVIA)

A letter was received by the SVIA requesting permission to use the Stonington Town Dock field on Saturday mornings from May 2nd to October 24th of this year for the Stonington Farmers' Market. A motion was made by Mr. Balestracci, seconded by Mr. Brown and voted unanimously to approve the use of the Stonington Town Dock field for the Stonington Farmers' Market.

(8) Comments from Public

a. Ms. Tracy Swain spoke about her concern regarding the minutes of the April 8, 2009 minutes of the BOF meeting being too short for the length of the meeting. Ms. Swain inquired about the possibility of opening the Town Charter and "revamping" it. She further stated and Boards and Commissions need to be held responsible for their actions.

b. Mr. Bill Sternberg stated that he has a problem with the Board of Selectmen's minutes from a couple of months ago. He had made a statement at a previous meeting and the minutes only stated that he "spoke" but did not reflect what business was conducted. He further stated that he felt that opening the Charter is risky.

c. Ms. Rachel O'Dell spoke with regard to the BOF and feels and that we need ordinances and rules and requirements. Ms. O'Dell also asked when the Stillman Avenue project was due to start.

d. Mr. Vincent Faulise inquired about the layoffs at the Mystic Seaport and whether Mr. Haberek was aware of it. Mr. Faulise also inquired about the \$900,000.00 reduction in the BOE budget and what the town took from the reserve fund.

e. Mr. Don Sadowsky stated he feels that the Art Design Review Board has a lot of potential and would benefit the town. He hopes that the P&Z works with the Board.

f. Mr. Vincent Faulise inquired as to when the hotel on the corner of Liberty Street and White Rock Road would be open and what was going on with the land next to it.

(9) Projects Update

None

(10)Mr. Brown requested left at 8:15 p.m.

(11)Adjourn

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristine Bell

Recording Secretary